

I CLAIM:

1. A condom applicator for supporting a condom, the condom in a substantially unstretched condition having an inner diameter defining a condom circumference at an open cross-section thereof, said applicator comprising:

5 an axial tubular wall having first and second axially opposed open ends and an outer surface,

said wall having a compressed configuration in which said first open end defines a compressed opening having an applicator circumference not substantially greater than the condom circumference,

10 said wall further having an expanded configuration in which said first open end defines an expanded opening greater than said applicator circumference and sized to permit axial insertion of a penis; and

means for detachably securing the condom at said first open end such that the condom circumference conforms to applicator circumference at the outer
15 surface of said wall with the cross-section of the condom covering said first open end, whereby the cross-section of the condom is expanded to the size of said expanded opening by expanding said wall from its compressed configuration with the condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with the condom secured thereto.

2. The applicator of claim 1, wherein said expanded opening is substantially elliptical.

3. The applicator of claim 1, wherein said wall includes at least two axially extending wall portions, said wall portions being connected to slide without disconnection between said compressed configuration with said wall panels lying substantially flat in overlapping relation and said expanded configuration with said wall panels meeting substantially axial edge to axial edge.

4. The applicator of claim 3, wherein said wall includes at least four axially extending wall portions, each wall portion joined at its left and right axial edges to a respective adjacent wall portion by a respective axial fold line, said wall being foldable along said axial fold lines into said compressed configuration.

5. The applicator of claim 4, wherein each axial fold line includes a hinge.

6. The applicator of claim 4, wherein said wall includes six axially extending wall portions.

7. The applicator of claim 1, where an upper portion of the condom forms a circular bead, and wherein said securing means includes at least one ridge projecting outwardly from said outer surface of said wall and extending substantially parallel to said first open end at least partially around said wall, the bead of the condom being fittable against said ridge to be restrained from slipping toward said first open end by said ridge.

8. The applicator of claim 7, wherein said securing means includes two axially spaced ridges projecting outwardly from said outer surface of said wall and extending substantially parallel to said first open end at least partially around said wall, the bead of the condom being positionable between said two ridges to be restrained thereby from slipping toward either open end.

9. The applicator of claim 1, where an upper portion of the condom forms a circular bead, and wherein said securing means includes at least one notch extending at least partially through said wall, the bead of the condom being fittable at least partially within said notch to be restrained from slipping toward said first open end by said notch.

10. The applicator of claim 9, wherein said notch is a window extending entirely through said wall.

11. The applicator of claim 9, wherein said securing means includes a plurality of said notches extending at least partially through said wall and extending along a circle substantially parallel to said first open end.

12. The applicator of claim 11, wherein each of said notches is a window extending entirely through said wall.

13. The applicator of claim 1, further comprising:
means for assisting expansion of said wall from its compressed

configuration with the condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with the condom secured thereto, wherein said expansion assistance means includes a pull tab.

14. The applicator of claim 13, wherein said wall in its compressed configuration is folded to have an interior fold line at which the outer surface of two portions of said wall are in contact, and wherein said pull tab is attached substantially at said interior fold line.

15. The applicator of claim 14, wherein said pull tab extends beyond said applicator circumference.

16. The applicator of claim 14, wherein said expansion assistance means further includes at least one gripping section on said outer surface of said wall at a position opposed to said pull tab, said gripping section having a frictional surface suitable for engaging skin, whereby said applicator may be held by hand at said gripping section while said wall is expanded from its compressed configuration to its expanded configuration by tension of said pull tab.

17. The applicator of claim 1, further comprising:
means for assisting expansion of said wall from its compressed configuration with the condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with the condom secured thereto, wherein said expansion assistance means includes at least one gripping section on said outer surface of said wall, said gripping section

means for detachably securing said condom at said first open end
such that the condom circumference conforms to the applicator circumference at
the outer surface of said wall with said cross-section of said condom covering said
first open end, whereby said cross-section of said condom is expanded to the size
5 of said expanded opening by expanding said wall from its compressed
configuration with said condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with
said condom secured thereto.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein said expanded opening is
substantially elliptical.

22. The device of claim 20, wherein an upper portion of said condom
forms a circular bead and a lower portion of said condom is unrolled, and wherein
said bead is secured to said securing means at said outer surface of said wall and
said lower portion of said condom is nested within said wall.

23. The device of claim 20, further comprising:
means for assisting expansion of said wall from its compressed
configuration with said condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with
said condom secured thereto, wherein said expansion assistance means includes at
5 least one gripping section on said outer surface of said wall, said gripping section
having a frictional surface suitable for engaging skin, whereby said applicator may
be held by hand at said gripping section while being expanded from its compressed
configuration to its expanded configuration.

24. The device of claim 23, wherein said wall in its compressed configuration is folded to have an interior fold line at which the outer surface of two portions of said wall are in contact, and wherein said expansion assistance means further includes a pull tab attached substantially at said interior fold line at
5 a position opposed to said at least one gripping section and extending beyond said applicator circumference, whereby said applicator may be held by hand at said gripping section while being expanded from its compressed configuration to its expanded configuration by tension on said pull tab.

25. A method of packaging a device including a condom and a condom
10 applicator supporting the condom, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a condom to have, in a substantially unstretched condition thereof, an inner diameter defining a condom circumference at an open cross-section thereof;

preparing a condom applicator, the applicator having an axial tubular wall
15 having first and second axially opposed open ends and an outer surface, the wall having a compressed configuration in which the first open end defines a compressed opening having an applicator circumference not substantially greater than the condom circumference, the wall further having an expanded configuration in which the first open end defines an expanded opening greater than the applicator
20 circumference and sized to permit axial insertion of a penis;

placing the applicator in its compressed configuration;

detachably securing the condom to the applicator in its compressed configuration at the first open end such that the condom circumference conforms

to the applicator circumference at the outer surface of the wall with the cross-section of the condom covering the first open end; and

packaging the applicator to maintain the applicator in its compressed configuration until use.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said packaging step includes the step of applying a keeper band to the applicator in its compressed configuration to maintain the applicator in its compressed configuration.

27. A method of using a packaged device including a condom and a condom applicator supporting the condom, wherein the packaged device was prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

5 preparing a condom to have, in a substantially unstretched condition thereof, an inner diameter defining a condom circumference at an open cross-section thereof;

10 preparing a condom applicator, the applicator having an axial tubular wall having first and second axially opposed open ends and an outer surface, the wall having a compressed configuration in which the first open end defines a compressed opening having an applicator circumference not substantially greater than the condom circumference, the wall further having an expanded configuration in which the first open end defines an expanded opening greater than the applicator circumference and sized to permit axial insertion of a penis;

placing the applicator in its compressed configuration;

15 detachably securing the condom to the applicator in its compressed

configuration at the first open end such that the condom circumference conforms to the applicator circumference at the outer surface of the wall with the cross-section of the condom covering the first open end; and

packaging the applicator to maintain the applicator in its compressed
5 configuration until use,

said method of using the packaged device comprising the steps of:

removing the device from any packaging maintaining the applicator in its compressed configuration; and

expanding the applicator from its compressed configuration with the
10 condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with the condom secured thereto, whereby the cross-section of the condom is expanded to the size of the expanded opening.

28. A method of using a packaged device including a condom and a condom applicator supporting the condom, wherein the condom has, in a
15 substantially unstretched condition thereof, an inner diameter defining a condom circumference at an open cross-section thereof, and the applicator has an axial tubular wall having first and second axially opposed open ends and an outer surface, the wall having a compressed configuration in which the first open end defines a compressed opening having an applicator circumference not substantially
20 greater than the condom circumference, the wall further having an expanded configuration in which the first open end defines an expanded opening greater than the applicator circumference and sized to permit axial insertion of a penis, the condom being detachably secured to the applicator in its compressed configuration

at the first open end such that the condom circumference conforms to the applicator circumference at the outer surface of the wall with the cross-section of the condom covering the first open end and the applicator being packaged to maintain the applicator in its compressed configuration until use,

- 5 said method of using the packaged device comprising the steps of:
- removing the device from any packaging maintaining the applicator in its compressed configuration; and
- expanding the applicator from its compressed configuration with the condom secured thereto to its expanded configuration with the condom secured
- 10 thereto, whereby the cross-section of the condom is expanded to the size of the expanded opening.

29. A method of packaging a device including a condom and a condom applicator supporting the condom, said method comprising the steps of:

- preparing a condom to have, in a stretched condition thereof, an inner
- 15 diameter defining a condom circumference at an open cross-section thereof;
- preparing a condom applicator, the applicator having an axial tubular wall having first and second axially opposed ends and an outer surface, the first end being open and the second end being at least partially open, the wall having a configuration in which the first open end defines an opening having an applicator
- 20 circumference not substantially greater than the condom circumference and sized to permit axial insertion of a penis;

 detachably securing the condom to the applicator at the first open end such that the condom circumference conforms to the applicator circumference at the

outer surface of the wall with the cross-section of the condom covering the first open end; and

packaging the applicator to maintain the applicator with the condom secured thereto until use.

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